

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A drive shaft moving device, comprising: a principal part of the device through which a drive shaft is inserted, the drive shaft having a thread groove in its external surface; a nut provided inside the principal part of the device to engage with the thread groove of the drive shaft; and drive means for rotating the nut around the drive shaft, the drive means rotating the nut to move the drive shaft in an axial direction relative to the principal part of the device,

wherein the inside of the principal part of the device includes rotation speed switching means for switching the rotation speed of the nut among a plurality of rotation speeds when transmitting a torque from the drive means to the nut[.]

the nut has an annular part surrounding the drive shaft,
the drive means has an output shaft through which the drive shaft is
inserted, and

the rotation speed switching means includes follower teeth formed by
internal teeth provided on an inner periphery of the annular part, driver teeth
provided on the outer periphery of the output shaft to mesh with the follower
teeth, and clutching means integrally rotatable with the output shaft for switching
the connection/disconnection between the output shaft and the nut.

2. (Currently Amended) The drive shaft moving device, ~~of claim 1, wherein the drive shaft is located to penetrate through the rotation speed switching means[.] comprising: a principal part of the device through which a drive shaft is inserted, the drive shaft having a thread groove in its external surface; a nut provided inside the principal part of the device to engage with the thread groove of the drive shaft; and drive means for rotating the nut around the drive shaft, the drive means rotating the nut to move the drive shaft in an axial direction relative to the principal part of the device.~~

wherein the inside of the principal part of the device includes rotation speed switching means for switching the rotation speed of the nut among a plurality of rotation speeds when transmitting a torque from the drive means to the nut,

the nut has an annular part surrounding the drive shaft,
the drive means has an output shaft through which the drive shaft is inserted, and

the rotation speed switching means includes a cylindrical rotary member supported rotatably around the output shaft, first follower teeth formed by internal teeth provided on an inner periphery of the annular part of the nut, first driver teeth provided on the outer periphery of the rotary member to mesh with the first follower teeth, second follower teeth provided on an inner periphery of the rotary member, second driver teeth provided on the outer periphery of the output shaft to mesh with the second follower teeth, and clutching means integrally rotatable with the output shaft for switching the connection/disconnection between the output shaft and the rotary member.

3. (Currently Amended) The drive shaft moving device of claim 1 or 2, wherein the ~~rotation speed switching means includes a speed reduction mechanism for reducing the rotation speed of an output shaft of the drive means~~ [.] ~~drive shaft is located to penetrate through the rotation speed switching means~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The drive shaft moving device of claim 3, ~~wherein:~~

~~the nut has an annular part surrounding the drive shaft;~~
~~the drive shaft is inserted through the output shaft of the drive means; and~~
~~the speed reduction mechanism includes follower teeth formed by internal teeth provided on an inner periphery of the annular part and driver teeth provided on the outer periphery of the output shaft to mesh with the follower teeth~~ [.]

claim[s] 1 to 3, wherein the rotation speed switching means includes a speed reduction mechanism for reducing the rotation speed of an output shaft of the drive means.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)